

## Just My Opinion...

by Matthew D. Cissne  
Collegian Writer

...but there is no way that Shaquille O'Neal should even be considered for the NBA's MVP award. His performance is nowhere near that of David Robinson's, Hakeem Olajuwon's, Patrick Ewing's or Charles Barkley's.

I thought that I was the only person in the entire world that had not been caught up in the SHAQ-FU mania until yesterday when I was talking to one of my brothers in the gorge (not the Wintergarden Cafe, the GORGE! GORGE! GORGE!) and he brought up an interesting point: How can Shaq be considered for the MVP when his team will not give him the ball in a close game at crunch time?

Shaq is shooting only 54% from the free throw line. This is not only the lowest percentage on the Magic, but you would be hard-pressed to find 15 or 20 other players in the NBA that toss up more bricks from the line than the "Almighty Shaq."

I admit that Shaq is an intimidating force in the paint and has improved both his defensive and ball-handling skills, but I think that it is a travesty that he is getting so much attention from the press.

Another reason that Shaq does not deserve the honor of MVP is that he is surrounded by a better cast than any other superstar. I am under the opinion that the

MVP should not just be the best person on the best team, but should be the player that has the greatest impact on a team's success.

If you judge an MVP on those standards than two players rise to the top: "The Admiral" David Robinson and "Sir" Charles Barkley.

Robinson's Spurs and Barkley's Suns have continued to play exceptional basketball after losing a significant member of their team.

The Suns are leading the Pacific Division even though all-star forward Danny Manning tore his anterior cruciate ligament right before the all-star break and

will not play until next season.

Since Manning's injury, Barkley has averaged 27 points a game and has been their emotional leader.

The Spurs lost the NBA's most talented rebounder Dennis "The Worm" Rodman for 2-4 weeks when Rodman lost a confrontation with the pavement after falling off of his Harley.

Instead of coming up weak in the middle, the Spurs pulled together and reeled off 15 straight wins before losing to the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night.

Sorry Shaq, you may have a big thirst, but you don't deserve to drink from the NBA's MVP trophy this year.

# Lack of consistency hurts team

### Subdued coach disappointed by performance

by Brian Stadler  
Collegian Staff

As the baseball season continues, the Behrend Lions struggle to find the one thing that they lack: consistency.

The struggle continued this past Saturday as Behrend fell in both games of a double-header to SUNY-Fredonia, by scores of 3-1 and 9-0.

In the closely played first game, the Lions did not take advantage of SUNY-Fredonia's mistakes. Behrend also did not take advantage of a well pitched game from Greg Gapen.

A disappointed Quinn McGuire expressed his opinion about the team's performance.

"The opportunities were there, we should have taken advantage of their mistakes and won but we didn't."

The Lions didn't have much

time to think about the first loss as the second game was much the same but worse.

Behrend finished the second game on the wrong side of a 9-0 count. With the loss, Behrend fell to 5-11 for the season.

A somewhat subdued Coach Dan Perritano felt disappointed about his team's performance.

"We need to improve defensively very much and our hitting needs to come around. We need to collectively play better baseball as a team," explained Perritano.

McGuire agreed with his coach's comments.

"We are not hitting or playing well defensively. We're struggling to do anything," stated McGuire.

The Lions hope to get things going on the plus side with games against Grove City and Washington and Jefferson. All games are weather permitting.



Collegian File Photo

**Swinging for the fences:** Due to the bad weather Coach Dan Perritano and the Lions have not been able to take the field for recent games. They will try again on Saturday as they host Washington and Jefferson.

## Catch the Men's Baseball team at their next game...

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